

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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PASS: FRASER,WITCHER,ANDERSON, FAS AND GREENSHIELDS,
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TAGS: EAGR OECD

SUBJECT: MEETING OF JOINT WORKING PARTY (JWP) OF AGR.
AND TRADE COMMITTEES, DEC. 8-10, 1976.

REF: OECD PARIS 35893

1. SUMMARY. AUSTRALIA HAS ASKED FOR A CONSULTATION
WITH JAPAN ON THE RECENT DECISION BY JAPAN REDUCING THE
QUOTA OF BEEF IMPORTS, OCTOBER 1976-MARCH 1977. THIS
CONSULTATION IS TO TAKE PLACE SIMULTANEOUS WITH
AUSTRALIAN CONSULTATIONS WITH US AND CANADA IN JWP
MEETING, DEC. 8-10.

2. TC(76)26 AGR(76)29, 2 DEC. 1976, RECEIVED IN
MISSION C.O.B. 3 DEC., COPY MAILED FRASER IMMEDIATELY,
MENTIONS FACTS SUMMARIZED ABOVE AND REPRODUCES
AUSTRALIAN LETTER. THAT LETTER REFERS TO "THE RECENT
DECISION TAKEN BY JAPAN TO RESTRICT THE LEVEL OF ITS
BEEF IMPORTS TO 20,000 TONS FOR THE SECOND HALF OF THE
JAPANESE 1976/77 FISCAL YEAR. BEEF IS A MAJOR EXPORT
PRODUCT FOR AUSTRALIA AND AUSTRALIA IS A
MAJOR SUPPLIER OF BEEF TO THE JAPANESE MARKET. THE
ACTION BY JAPAN WILL MEAN A SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTION IN
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THE LEVEL OF JAPANESE IMPORTS OF BEEF AT A TIME WHEN

AUSTRALIAN PRODUCERS ARE ALREADY EXPERIENCING SEVERE DIFFICULTIES WITH ACCESS TO OVERSEAS MARKETS".

3. THIS ADDITIONAL CONSULTATION SOUGHT BY AUSTRALIA, OUGHT TO FACILITATE CARRYING OUR CHAIRMAN SHEPHERD'S PLAN TO DISCUSS WORLD MEAT SITUATION AND TO AVOID TAKING UP US, CANADA, AND JAPAN TO THE EXCLUSION OF THE REST OF THE WORLD (PAR 2, REFTTEL).

4. WITH R. SIMPSON, FAS/W, PARTICIPATING IN JWP MEETING WE SEE NO NEED FOR FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS BUT WOULD BE GLAD TO RECEIVE BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON JAPANESE ACTION. AGR/WP4(76)9, 30 SEP., PROJECTED ANNUAL JAPANESE BEEF IMPORTS OF 100 THOUSAND TONS FOR 1976 AND 1977 IN CONTRAST TO 54 AND 45 THOUSAND TONS FOR 1974 AND 1975. DURING WP4 DISCUSSION, OCT. 25-27, JAP DEL OBSERVED CRYPTICALLY THAT THESE ARE SECRETARIAT'S PROJECTIONS, NOT HIS GOVERNMENT'S - AN OBSERVATION TO WHICH LISTENERS ATTACHED LITTLE SIGNIFICANCE. SECRETARIAT REPEATED ITS PROJECTIONS IN AGR/WP4(76)10, 19 NOV. HOWEVER, AGR(76)28, 10 NOV. THE REPORT OF WP4 TO THE COMM FOR AGR. READS: "IN JAPAN, BEEF PRODUCTION IN 1976 MIGHT BE SUBSTANTIALLY BELOW 1975 BUT A CONTINUED RECOVERY IN DAIRY STEER SLAUGHTER SHOULD LIFT OUTPUT IN 1977. DEMAND RECOVERY HAS BEEN RELATIVELY SLOW AND HAS ALSO PARTLY AFFECTED PIGMEAT PRICES IN RECENT MONTHS".
TURNER

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